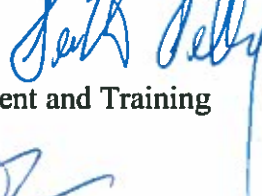





FEB 02 2015

VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. 02-15

TO: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS FOR VETERANS'
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
ALL DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCY (SWA) ADMINISTRATORS
ALL VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
COMPETITIVE GRANTEES
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM: KEITH KELLY 
Assistant Secretary
Veterans' Employment and Training

PORTIA WU 
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration

SUBJECT: Single Federal Portal for Connecting Veterans to Meaningful Career Opportunities

1. **Purpose.** To inform the public workforce system and partners of the functionality and value of the government-wide Veterans Employment Center (VEC) available now through the eBenefits portal hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>.
2. **Background.** In 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden started the Joining Forces initiative to spur efforts to better serve military service members, veterans, and their families with real concrete action. As a result, departments and agencies across the Federal government have been working together to improve and integrate both online and in-person services to assist veterans and their spouses with their employment and career goals. Due to the increasing numbers of separating military service members in recent years and anticipated drawdowns over the next several years, a major goal of this initiative is to

facilitate the transfer of skills gained through military education, training and work experience toward a career pathway and employment in the civilian labor market.

3. **eBenefits Portal.** eBenefits is a joint VA and Department of Defense (DoD) web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to veterans, transitioning service members, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. It integrates and links to additional resources on military and veterans' benefits and employment assistance. The eBenefits portal is an essential way for veterans, service members, and their families to access and obtain information and services online.
4. **Veterans Employment Center.** Within the eBenefits portal, the VEC is the Federal government's single comprehensive online tool to provide transitioning service members, Reserve Component service members, veterans and their families with the tools to translate military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers. Job seekers can also search for private sector jobs and jobs in Federal, state and local governments that come from the National Labor Exchange (NLX), which displays job openings directly from employer postings and from state job banks as well. The VEC provides service members, veterans and their families who are seeking to leverage their skills and talents in civilian job employment with a single online tool for connecting themselves to meaningful career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

The VEC is incorporating features and information from Department of Labor sponsored online tools, including My Next Move for Veterans, and mySkills myFuture, to provide information on civilian careers related to military occupations, and the training and credentials that can help them qualify for employment. Through web services, these resources support the Skills Translator function within the VEC.

The VEC provides employers with access to a targeted pool of resumes from veterans and transitioning service members, allowing them to search resumes to identify veterans with skill sets applicable to civilian employment at their organization, and to track progress toward their veteran hiring goals. Resumes are visible to all employers with an active LinkedIn or Google profile. To prevent spam, an applicant's name and email address are redacted and only visible to employers verified by the VA as registered companies with the Internal Revenue Service. Employers can search veterans' profiles by keyword and/or geographic location to find the right fit for their business.

On the VEC, employers can also launch a public relations campaign to hire veterans by making a public hiring commitment on the site. They also have the option to state the number of veterans they intend to hire and update their status in achieving their goal.

The VEC also integrates or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help employers recruit and retain talented transitioning service members, veterans and their families, such as the new DoD SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian training and employment opportunities for transitioning service members.

5. **Action Requested.** Please share this information with all career counselors, front-line staff and partners. Staff of American Job Centers providing priority service to veterans should become familiar with the VEC to understand the services and functionality it offers and

should refer veterans to the site for self-service as well. Local Veterans' Employment Representatives should also use and promote the site when working with businesses seeking to recruit veterans.

6. **Inquiries.** All inquiries should be directed to the appropriate ETA or VETS regional office.

7. **Attachment(s).**

- eBenefits Factsheet
- VEC for Job Seekers factsheet